

Module 6 Final Assessment: Practice Part B Argumentative Essay

For Teachers:

Students will utilize argument structures in two places in the formal coursework: Task 2 and Part B of the End-of-course Exam. So far, students have practiced Part A of the Exam, which focused on analyzing and evaluating single arguments. Now, students will build their arguments by synthesizing information selected from four given sources in the same structural fashion as Part B (part B is a simplified version of Task 2, which goes a step further as students add their own research to the stimulus materials). Students will be timed in this activity: they will have 90 minutes to engage the given source materials, identify a central theme presented between multiple sources in the stimulus materials, build a central claim, collect evidence from at least two sources, and then organize and write a logical argument using the argument structures. It is strongly recommended that students utilize Toulmin for timed arguments because of its accessibility and applicability, though it is not required here.

Introduction

All students will be provided materials that mimic the Part B section of the AP Exam, including general directions and provided materials. Students will address the one required question in demonstration of argument synthesis and construction, foundational skills of AP Seminar.

For the sake of timing, students may be provided the materials in physical form so that they may analyze and annotate during the allotted time in which they have to answer the question.

Students will engage the provided materials by identifying an over-arching theme between multiple sources in the stimulus. They will then select and organize evidence supporting their central claim based on that theme. College Board suggests that Part B of the AP Seminar Exam take around 90 minutes.